

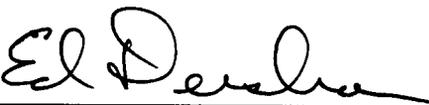
Alaska Board of Fisheries
2002-213-FB

Findings Regarding Revised Red King Crab Threshold Level for Southeastern Alaska Area
(Area A)

The Alaska Board of Fisheries discussed Proposal 475 submitted by the Southeast Alaska King and Tanner Crab Task Force to change the minimum threshold level required to open the Southeast Alaska commercial red king crab fishery from the current 300,000 pound level. The Department of Fish and Game stated that the commercial fishery could be successfully managed to target a guideline harvest level of 200,000 pounds or greater, given mandatory catch and effort reporting requirements contained in Proposal 471.

The board finds that mandatory catch reporting has not previously been in place for the Southeast Alaska red king crab fishery and the ability of the department to target lower thresholds relies heavily upon the new management tool. Based upon this finding the board believes it is prudent to set a three-year sunset clause for a new threshold. The board therefore amended the proposal to specify a new threshold level of 200,000 pounds with a three-year sunset clause. Over this three-year period, the department's ability to accurately target guideline harvest levels using mandatory reporting requirements will be evaluated. If a proposal is submitted by either the department or the Southeast Alaska King and Tanner Crab Task Force to establish a minimum threshold level, the board will reassess this threshold level at the next Statewide King and Tanner Crab board meeting. If a proposal to set a minimum threshold level for the Southeast red king crab fishery is not passed following the sunset clause, the threshold level will return to 300,000 pounds.

ADOPTED: March 19, 2002
Anchorage, Alaska


Ed Dersham, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries

VOTE: 6-0-1